

**Judith Basin Chamber of Commerce  
Monday, January 25, 2016  
Meeting Minutes**

**Attendees: Kim Holzer, Ron Wiseman, Dawnita Deichmann, Linda Casper and Vicky McCray**

**President's report**

President Kim Holzer called the meeting to order at 11:30 a.m. There was no public comment. Minutes were amended to remove item involving the discussion of the distribution of monies for the Chamber's "Furrows and Trails, Part II" project and to include the motion to allow Kim the money needed for hosting the Furrows and Trails website.

Minutes were approved with these amendments.

Kim's report included letting Chamber members know she had revamped the Judith Basin Chamber website. Everything has been updated except the PayPal. The Facebook page is at 93 fans, up 6 from the last meeting. The meeting notice was in the Press, on Facebook and on the website. Kim noted she will recommend the incoming secretary to email people about the impending meetings.

Kim received an inquiry on the RussellCountry.com website about information for the Stanford area. She sent this information to the interested party.

**Treasurer's report**

Previous savings account balance as of Nov. 30, 2015 is \$2153.44, which includes the 27-cent interest from October to November.

Checking account balance as of October 22, 2015 was \$499.49. With no expenditures and \$50 dues from one new member, the Town of Stanford, the November 10, 2015 checking account balance is \$549.99.

Kim presented Linda a bill for \$119, the cost for hosting the Furrows and Trails website for two years. She did not charge the Chamber to build the website or to update it. She requested Linda write the check to Paper Moon Marketing.

**Old Business**

**1) Christmas Stroll:** It was a busy day, with lots of people participating. The JB Fit Club's wreath races were a nice addition. We will continue the responsibility of getting Santa to the Stroll. He arrived in the ambulance, which was not what had been planned. We need to stick to the plan, unless a change is made by a majority of Chamber members. The siren seems to be an important part of Santa's arrival for some people. Vicky suggested working with Don Andersen to see if Santa's arrival could coincide with a very audible "Jingle Bells" or "Here Comes Santa Claus" on Don's sound system.

**2) Map:** Dave Bobbit at the Judith Ranger District is working on a county map for publication through the Chamber. He would like contact with someone who was at the last meeting; Kim will contact Dave. The map will be incorporated into the Russell Country website as well.

**3) Chamber Banner:** Kim forgot to press "submit" when she ordered the banner. She apologized and said the banner is coming.

**4) Cook Shack:** This is ongoing. Kim spoke to Stanford Superintendent Tim Dolphay, who also is teaching shop classes.

**5) Welcome Packages:** Dawnita reported she and Rob Todd discussed the business welcome idea. They would like to include Chamber of Commerce information; Courthouse information, which includes how to get in touch with the various offices and officers; a copy of the most recent Press; brochures/gift certificates from local businesses; a visitor's guide, which includes a list of county businesses; a list of organizations and contact information; and a list of community activities.

Linda Casper questioned the gift certificates. Dawnita explained the list is only a suggestion.

**6) Paypal:** This has been registered. Kim needs the EIN. She also wondered if members wanted someone else on the account in addition to her; she recommended they include someone else just in case something were to happen to her. Because she has made precautions for unknowns, the members opted not to add another person to the account.

**7) Newsletter via email:** Kim continues to look for a vendor. She found one for \$20 per month, but doesn't think it's a good investment.

**8) Chamber signage for locations throughout the county and Montana Main Street:** no discussion. These are ongoing issues to be taken up when the time arises.

**9) Furrows and Trails:** Members received a sheet with the names of the people who have submitted information for the book so far. Gerda Gustafson, Zimmers, Steve and Jeanne Lillegard, and Chris and Susan Lillegard were added to the list, as Linda had received information from them. Vicky delivered Kolin information she received from Joe Vavrovsky.

Interest in the project has all been positive, but Linda said some people are unaware of the first Furrows and Trails. The Judith Basin County Free Library has a copy of the book and Kim said she has found 10 other copies available in public places. She will get the list to Vicky to include in her Press article. She will also add the list to the website.

Kim presented members with stats on the website: page views and visitors. In the week prior to the meeting 107 people visited the site.

Because the cost of doing business has gone up, we may need to look at publishing one book, instead of three. We will get three estimates, both for coffee table books and paperbacks, before making a decision. Ron will check on the coffee-table book Chateau published and Vicky will check on the two coffee-table books published for Great Falls.

Discussed getting sponsors to help defray the cost of producing the book. Members do not want to deter anyone from sponsoring the book by setting high levels of sponsorship. Can include a PayPal button on the website for anyone who might like to be a sponsor.

Historical Society might be a good sponsor because the project is historical. Ron and Vicky will join Kim at the Judith Basin Historical Society meeting on Feb. 9 to discuss a sponsorship with them.

Discussed applying for grants – Judith Basin Endowment, Strand Foundation, Central Montana Foundation – to help pay for cost of books. No matter what printing company the Chamber decides to go with, a down payment will be required.

Set the next deadline for history/story submissions at May 1.

Kim will put together a poster reminding people to get their histories/stories in.

**10) Judith Arts Society:** Chamber still has tickets from their Judith Arts Society sponsorship this fall. The season still has two concerts, one on Valentine's Day and the other on April 3. Chamber will provide two tickets for each senior center in the county. Seniors can decide for themselves how best to give the tickets away. Vicky will get the tickets to the three senior centers.

**New Business**

The Chamber will continue to work in conjunction with the Judith Basin Press's Visitor's Guide for their business directory. Vicky will find out what the insert will cost. This year the Chamber will add asterisks in front of Chamber members' names. A deadline of April 18 was set for folks to get their event information into the insert. Members moved to set a spending limit of \$300 for the directory.

Members decided to table the discussion of spring and summer events and activities.

Kim asked permission to re-work the Chamber membership application. It is too long. Everyone agreed.

**Election of Officers**

Officers for the new year will remain the same (Kim Holzer, President; Amber Milburn, Vice-President; Linda Casper, Treasurer). Vicky agreed to take on the duties of secretary.

Next Chamber meeting is set for **Monday, April 25, 2016, at 11:30 a.m.** at Waterhole Saloon meeting room.

Meeting adjourned at ?

**Respectfully submitted,  
Vicky McCray, secretary**